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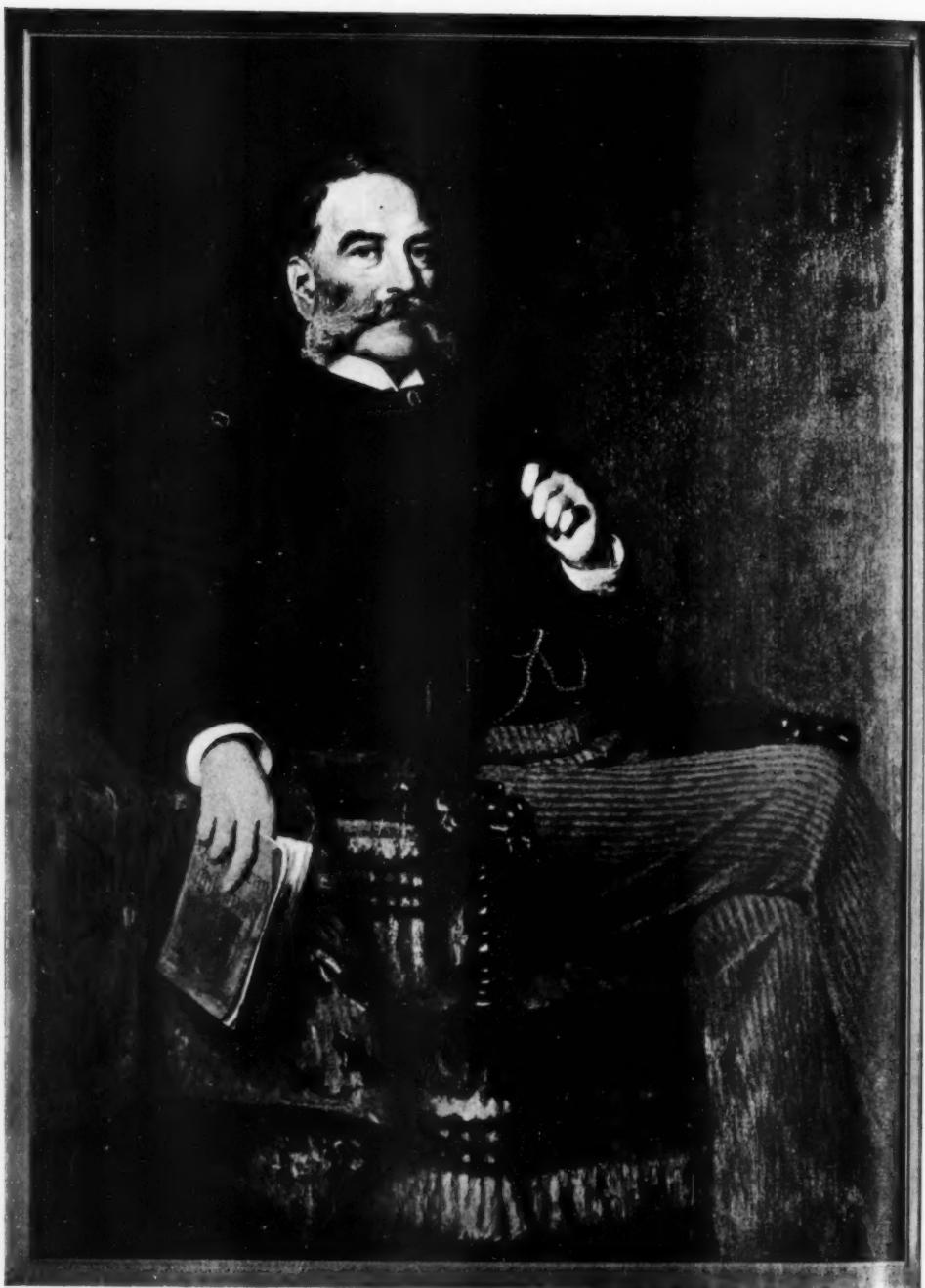
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All money received from membership fees is used for increasing the collections and for developing the educational work of the Museum.

The Museum is open free to the public on every day in the year.





MORRIS KETCHUM JESUP

PRESIDENT OF THE MUSEUM FROM 1881 TO 1908

From the portrait in the Museum, painted in 1892 by Eastman Johnson

MORRIS KETCHUM JESUP.

MORRIS KETCHUM JESUP, one of the incorporators of the American Museum of Natural History, a trustee since its organization, and president since February, 1881, died at his home on Madison Avenue, New York City, Wednesday, January 22, 1908, in his seventy-eighth year. A most liberal and intelligent patron of science and of education in its broadest sense, the great loss to the city and nation due to his demise falls most heavily upon the Museum to which for nearly forty years he had devoted in the most direct and personal manner the wonderful ability that made him successful along many and varied lines of activity and brought him well-merited honors at home and abroad. An account of Mr. Jesup's life and of his long and efficient services to the Museum will appear in the form of a special memorial publication.



The American Museum Journal

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No. 3

THE BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO COLLECTION.

THE Schröder Collection from the Bismarck Archipelago in the South Seas, the acquisition of which was announced in the January JOURNAL, contains many objects which are becoming very scarce, through intercourse of the natives with European and American traders. The collection has already served as the basis of Professor Schröder's publications, but these are inaccessible to the general public, and our Members will be interested to learn something about the more noteworthy specimens and what they represent.

The native inhabitants of the archipelago belong to the Papuan race and are cannibals. Cannibalism, however, like many other of the native customs is disappearing under the influence of the white men with whom the people have come into contact. Clothing is worn but little by the islanders; usually a band about the hips suffices, and even this is often dispensed with. Heavy ear-ornaments are in great vogue. Sometimes these are so large and weighty that they draw the lobe of the ear down to the shoulder. The people have the custom too of piercing the septum of the nose to receive ornaments of bone and other substances.

The Papuans are firm believers in departed spirits as active participants in current events, and ghost, or "taboo," houses are scattered through the islands. One of the houses is represented on page 38 from a photograph taken by Professor Schröder. The framework of the structure consists of posts and rafters of wooden or bamboo poles. The roof and sides are thatched with grass, but one of the sides is only partly closed, so that the contents of the house are exposed to view. In such a house are kept the "malagans" or idols. All these malagans represent various evil spirits or devils, and the propitiation of these constitutes the only native religion, if this may be called a religion, of these people. At stated times a ceremonial dance is performed about the ghost house in which women are seldom allowed to take part. Another mystic



E. Schröder, Photo.

A TABOO, OR GHOST, HOUSE IN THE BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

ceremony, known as the "init" dance, is always performed by men, who go through certain rites to the accompaniment of barbarous songs, the shrill notes of the Pan-pipes and the din of shell trumpets and drums. Women are prohibited under penalty of death from witnessing this ceremony.

Five malagans from a ghost house are shown on page 40. The central one is nine feet four inches high and presents the appearance of being composed of many figures and slat-like pieces joined together. In reality, however, it has been carved from a single log, and the same is true of the others. The human figure, animals, birds and fish, all much distorted or conventionalized, form the motives of the carvings. The colors used in decorating these malagans are white, red and black. If the present natives attach any particular attribute to each of these idols, it has not been ascertained, and the probability is that their original significance has been lost.

Several characteristic objects of this region is shown in the illustration on page 41. At the left is a wooden dance-drum (No. 1) carved from a log of palm wood. The handle is considerably above the center, hence the drum, when grasped by the left hand, hangs at such an angle as to bring the head in convenient position to be reached by the right hand. The head is of snake skin, and is usually beaten with the fingers, but sometimes with a small stick. The lower end shows a form of decoration common to most of the islands of the South Seas. The depressions of the carved designs are filled with lime. The white color of the lime contrasts strongly with the dark color of most palm wood. Nos. 2, 3 and 5 are shark hooks. The shanks are of wood, and the curved points are made from the shell of the Tridaena and other large mollusks. No. 4 is an ax-like implement with a blade made from a large shell. Two pieces of wood, hollowed out to receive the upper end of the shell blade are bound together and to the handle by a thong made from some creeping plant. These shell blades are much harder and more serviceable than is generally supposed, and answer well for many purposes, especially in making canoes, the wood being first charred with fire and then hacked out with such an ax or chisel.

An ancient death-drum, or "nunut" is shown by No. 6. This rare specimen, which is the most highly prized piece in the collection, is carved from a log of some hard, dark wood, probably a species of palm. Each of the three tongues gives out a note of a different pitch from the



MALAGANS FROM A GHOST HOUSE, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

others. In former times this instrument was only used on the death of a chief, and we are told that the discord produced by its tones was supposed to be "spirit voices." Parkinson, however, in "Dreissig Jahre in der Südsee" says that the sound closely resembles the braying of



IMPLEMENT AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

1. Dance drum. 2, 3, 5. Shark hooks. 4. Ax, with shell blade. 6. Death-drum. 7. Shell trumpet. 8, 9, 12, 13. Knives. 10. Dagger. 11. Pan-pipe. 14. Lime-gourd and spatula.

an ass. The player held the instrument between his knees, and drew the palm of his hand, which had previously been covered with some resinous substance, over the three tongues, causing them to vibrate.

No. 7 is a trumpet made from the shell of a Triton. Shells of Triton, Ranella and Cassis are generally used for this purpose simply by making a hole in one of the upper whorls for the mouthpiece. The sound of this instrument can be heard for the distance of half a mile or more, and is still often used to signal the approach of a vessel. It is the favorite musical instrument at all native gatherings and feasts. Nos. 8, 9, 12 and 13 are native knives with wooden handles and obsidian blades. These are in common use for all sorts of purposes, and are extremely serviceable implements. Many primitive peoples have employed obsidian, or volcanic glass, in different ways, but chiefly in the form of knives and points for weapons. The striking physical characteristic of obsidian is its conchoidal fracture, a property which makes it a comparatively easy matter to detach from a core, long flakes which often have keen edges. The wooden handles are decorated with engraved designs, the depressions painted or filled with lime. No. 10 is an elaborately carved dagger made from the leg bone of a cassowary. No. 11 is a Pan-pipe of reeds. Pan-pipes among primitive peoples had wide distribution, as we should expect. What is more natural than to blow into a piece of bamboo or cane and produce a tone; later on the experiment would be repeated with a cane differing in length from the first, and a note of different pitch would result. The tying together of two or more canes of different length would be but a short step forward, and then we have the Pan-pipe. No. 14 is a lime-gourd and spatula for holding and mixing the shell-lime which is chewed with the betel. The decoration on this gourd, which is quite elaborate, has been burned in.

C. W. MEAD.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN BLOW-GUN.

THE blow-gun for propelling a poisoned arrow is the favorite weapon of the Indian in many regions of northern South America. Although these curious weapons vary in construction in different localities, they are alike in principle, consisting of a tube from eight to twelve feet in length which generally tapers from one to two inches in diameter at the mouth end to about three-quarters of an inch at the farther extremity. The bore of this tube is about three sixteenths of an inch in diameter. In some localities a cup-shaped mouth-piece of hard wood is attached to the larger end.

Along the Upper Caiary-Uaupés blow-guns are made from the stems of a variety of palm (*Iriartea setigera* Martius). These palm stems have often been described as canes on account of their having rings of scars of the fallen leaves which closely resemble the joints of canes or bamboos. The Indian selects two stems of such sizes that the smaller will exactly fit within the larger. After these stems have been carefully dried and the pith cleared out with a long rod, the bore is made smooth by drawing back and forth through it a little bunch of tree-fern roots. The smaller stem is then inserted in the larger, so that one will serve to correct any crookedness that may exist in the other. The wooden mouth-piece is then fitted to one end, and about three and one half feet from it, a boar's tooth is fastened on the gun by some gummy substance, for a sight. Over the outside the maker winds spirally a strip of the dark shiny bark of a creeper which gives it an ornamental finish, and his blow-gun is complete.

In some localities instead of the two canes a single piece of palm wood is used, which is split into two equal parts throughout its length, each piece hollowed out, and the two divisions afterward cemented together like the divisions of a cedar-wood pencil.

The arrows are from ten to fourteen inches long, and of the thickness of an ordinary lucifer match. Those of the Indians of the Caiary-Uaupés are made from the midrib of a palm leaf or of the spinous processes of the Patawá (*Enocarpus Batava*) sharpened to a point at one end and wound near the other with a delicate sort of wild cotton which grows in a pod upon a large tree (*Bombax ceiba*). This mass of cotton is just big enough to fill the tube when the arrow is gently pressed into it. The point is dipped into poison, allowed to dry, and redipped until well coated. The exact composition of this poison is unknown, and probably varies in different localities; but it would seem that the chief ingredient is always the juice of a *Strychnos* plant. It is known among different tribes by many names; such as Curari, Ourari, Urari and Wooralí. Poisoned arrows are dangerous things to handle, and they are always carried in a quiver which has been partly filled with cotton or some other soft vegetable material, into which the poisoned ends of the arrows are thrust for protection. The blow-gun is called "Sarabatana" on the Upper Caiary-Uaupés, and by many tribes in the Amazon region it is known as the "Pucuna." The Portuguese of the River District call it "Gravatana."

The blow-gun in the hands of an Indian is a very effective weapon, and a skilled marksman will kill a small bird at thirty or forty paces. It is particularly deadly when used against birds or monkeys in the tops of trees, as in shooting in a direction nearly vertical the hunter can take the surest aim. The poison acts very quickly, seldom requiring more than two minutes to do its work, but the length of time depends much on the size of the game and the condition of the poison used.

In the Museum's recently acquired collection from the Indians of the Upper Rio Caiary-Uaupés region are several of these blow-guns and many of the arrows used with them.

C. W. MEAD.

**EXHIBITION SHOWING THE CONGESTION OF POPULATION IN
NEW YORK CITY.**

For two weeks, beginning Monday, March 9, there will be held at the Museum an exhibition showing the congestion of population in New York City and illustrating graphically the means proposed and being taken for the amelioration of conditions among the poor of the city. Maps will be used to indicate, among other facts, the location of tenements erected within the last few years, all the existing transportation lines, the comparative density of population in the different boroughs of the city and in New York in relation to other cities, the location of unoccupied farms in the State and of men and families who have been placed on farms during the past year, the location of "sweated" industries in the lowest part of the city, the number of factories and workers per acre and the distribution of child labor.

Models constructed according to scale will be exhibited to show the old-law and new-law tenements, the increase in the height of buildings in the last twenty-one years, an open-space tenement containing playground and park but covering only half the site of the building, normal school rooms and crowded school-rooms, and a series of dark and light rooms, apartments in a typical down-town tenement and apartments illustrating the work of the Practical Housekeeping Centers Association.

In connection with the first week of the exhibition several conferences will be held beginning Monday evening, March 9, under the presidency of President John H. Finley with addresses by Governor

Hughes, His Excellency Baron des Planches, Italian Ambassador to the United States, Commissioner Hebbard and Mrs. Vladimir G. Simkhovitch. The topics to be considered at the succeeding conferences are as follows: Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, Neighborhood Work; afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, Home Conditions in the Congested Districts; evening at 8:15 o'clock, Density and Distribution of Nationalities with addresses illustrated by stereopticon. Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, there will be a meeting of the New York State Consumers League; afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, a conference on Children in Congested Districts; evening at 8:15 o'clock, on Labor and Congestion, with illustrated addresses; Thursday afternoon at 3:30, a conference of Delegates from cities in New York State; evening at 8:15 a conference with popular addresses by Professor J. W. Jenks, Mr. C. M. Robinson and Hon. Lawson Purdy as given in the program of the Members' Course of Lectures on this page.

LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MEMBERS' COURSE.

Thursdays at 8:15 o'clock P. M.

March 5.—V. STEFÁNSSON, "A Year with the Eskimo at the Mouth of the MacKenzie River."

As a member of the recent Mikkelssen Arctic Expedition, Mr. Stefánsson went overland to the Mackenzie and down that river to its mouth. Here he expected to meet the other members of the party, but the loss of their ship prevented their arrival, and Mr. Stefánsson, in the absence of supplies, became the guest of the Eskimos.

March 12.—The following addresses will be given in co-operation with the Committee on Congestion of Population in New York.

PROFESSOR JEREMIAH W. JENKS, Cornell University, "Physiographic and Economic Causes for the Growth of Cities."

MR. CHARLES M. ROBINSON, Rochester, "Town Planning."

HON. LAWSON PURDY, President of the Board of Taxes and Assessments of the City of New York, "The Effect of Taxation upon Distribution of Population."

March 19.—CHARLES F. FAY, "The Grandeur of the Canadian Alps, or Mountaineering in a New Switzerland."

Professor Fay, who is a former president of the American Alpine Club, has had an extended personal experience in the Canadian Rockies which has given him exceptional opportunities to secure illustrations of the scenery of this marvellously beautiful region. From a detailed presentation of its main features the lecture passes to a narrative of high ascents.

March 26.—W. P. HAY, "The Applicability of Color Photography by the Lumière Process to Scientific Work."

Mr. Hay will explain the method of handling the Lumière plates and demonstrate the principles upon which they are based. Direct color-photographs will be projected by the stereopticon to illustrate the accuracy with which the colors of shells, butterflies, beetles and other strikingly colored objects may be reproduced by this process.

April 2.—CLIFTON F. HODGE, "The Propagation and Domestication of American Game Birds."

Professor Hodge has accomplished what was at one time thought to be the impossible task of raising Quail and Grouse in confinement. His experiments have not only permitted him to photograph drumming Grouse, and in other ways to gain a new insight into the lives of these birds, but they have high economic value.

April 9.—O. P. AUSTIN, "Queer Methods of Transportation."

A view, by motion pictures and stereopticon slides, of the curious methods of travel and transportation encountered in a trip around the world; the crude methods of the Tropics and the Orient are contrasted with the modern systems of Europe and America, and some suggestions are presented regarding the possibility of development of the Tropics and the Orient through the introduction of modern methods.

AFTERNOON TALKS TO MEMBERS.

A series of talks to Members on museum methods and collections by members of the Scientific Staff has been begun. The talks are given Monday afternoons at 3 o'clock according to the following schedule:

February 24.—F. M. CHAPMAN, "The Habitat Groups of Birds."

March 2.—J. D. FIGGINS, "Methods in Making Artificial Flowers and Leaves."

March 9.—MRS. AGNES L. ROESLER, "The Collections Illustrating the Indians of the Plains."

March 16.—R. C. ANDREWS, "The Local Mammal Collection.—Wild Animals Found About New York."

March 23.—JAMES L. CLARK, "Animal Sculpture; How Animals are Mounted."

March 30.—R. W. MINER, "The Jesup Collection of North American Forestry; Our Native Trees."

PUPILS' COURSE.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 4 o'clock.

Open to School Children, when accompanied by their Teachers, and to children of members, on presentation of Membership Tickets.

	Mar.	Mar.	
Monday,	9,	30.	— "New York Colonial Days." By R. W. Miner.
		Apr.	
Wednesday,	11,	1.	— "The Work of Water." By E. O. Hovey.
Friday,	13,	3.	— "The Industries of the United States." By G. H. Sherwood.
Monday,	16,	6.	— "Life Among Our Indians." By G. H. Pepper.
Wednesday,	18,	8.	— "Egypt and Her Neighbors." By Walter Granger.
Friday,	20,	24.	— "Methods of Transportation, Past and Present." By H. I. Smith.
Monday,	23,	27.	— "Scenes in the British Isles." By R. W. Miner.
Wednesday,	25,	29.	— "Life in Our Western States." By Barnum Brown.
Friday,	27,	1.	— "The Japanese and How They Live." By R. C. Andrews.

PEOPLES' COURSE.

Given in co-operation with the City Department of Education.

The subjects of the lectures to be given in March are as follows:

Tuesdays at 8 P. M. Illustrated with stereopticon views.

March 3.—JOHN B. CREIGHTON, "Our Own City." Modern New York, its growth, commercial interests, social and civic life, and future expansion.

March 10.—Addresses arranged in co-operation with the Conference on the Problems of Congestion of Population, DR. E. R. L. GOULD, presiding:

HON. ROBERT W. DE FOREST, "The Housing Problem."

FELIX ADLER, PH. D., "Moral Standards and Family Life in Tenements." HON. ROBERT WATCHORN, "Ellis Island, the Door to the United States." HENRY M. LEIPZIGER, LL. D., "The School as a Social Center."

March 17.—ISAAC F. SMITH, "Literary and Historic Shrines of Boston and Vicinity."

March 24.—S. T. WILLIS, LL. D., "The Mississippi Valley and the Southern States."

March 31.—JOHN JAY LEWIS, "Through the Canadian Rockies."

Saturdays at 8 P. M.

The first four of a course of nine non-technical lectures, on "Achievements of Science and Modern Scholarship," to be delivered by professors in Columbia University. Illustrated with stereopticon views.

March 7.—PROFESSOR JAMES FURMAN KEMP, "Geology."

March 14.—PROFESSOR ERNEST F. NICHOLS, "Physics."

March 21.—PROFESSOR EDMUND B. WILSON, "Biology."

March 28.—PROFESSOR HENRY E. CRAMPTON, "Zoölogy."

The doors open at 7:30 o'clock and close when the lectures begin.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Public meetings of the New York Academy of Sciences and Affiliated Societies are held at the Museum according to the following schedule:

On Monday evenings, The New York Academy of Sciences:

First Mondays, Section of Geology and Mineralogy.

Second Mondays, Section of Biology.

Third Mondays, Section of Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry.

Fourth Mondays, Section of Anthropology and Psychology.

On Tuesday evenings, as announced:

The Linnaean Society, The New York Entomological Society and The Torrey Botanical Club.

On Wednesday evenings, as announced:

The New York Mineralogical Club.

On Friday evenings, as announced:

The New York Microscopical Society.

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The American Museum Journal

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